



Dallas County Community College District

Office of the Chancellor

TO: DCCCD Board Members

FROM: Dr. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.

DATE: April 24, 2009

RE: Weekend Memo #140

IF TOMORROW NEVER COMES

In a previous commentary I informed you about a book that all members of the Concord Church congregation read during a month-long fast experience. The book title was If You Had One Day to Live. During a period of reading while at Hilton Head Island, I came across a somewhat worn little item that my colleagues in the DCCCD may find relevant. What if tomorrow never comes? Ponder the thoughts that follow and ask the question – do they have relevance in my life?

- *If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you fall asleep, I would tuck you in more tightly and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.*
- *If I knew it would be the last time that I see you walk out the door, I would give you a big hug and a kiss and call you back for one more.*
- *If I knew it would be the last time that I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise, I would video tape each action and word, so I could play them back day after day.*
- *If I knew it would be the last time, I would spare an extra minute or two to stop and say "I love you," instead of assuming you would KNOW I do.*
- *If I knew it would be the last time I would be there to share your day, well I'm sure you'll have so many more, so I can let just this one slip away.*
- *For surely there's always tomorrow to make up for an oversight, and we always get a second chance to make everything right.*
- *There will always be another day to say our "I love you's" and certainly there's another chance to say our "Anything I can do's"?*
- *But just in case I might be wrong, and today is all I get, I'd like to say how much I love you and I hope we never forget that . . .*

Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, young or old alike, and today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved one tight.

So if you're waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today? For if tomorrow never comes

you'll surely regret the day, that you didn't take that extra time for a smile, a hug, or a kiss that you were too busy to grant someone, what turned out to be their one last wish.

So hold your loved ones close today, whisper in their ear, and tell them how much you love them and that you'll always hold them dear.

Take time to say "I'm sorry," or "please forgive me," or "thank you," or "It's okay."

And if tomorrow never comes, you'll have no regrets about today.

This was a somewhat different commentary, but one that I thought would have utility and relevance for all of us. It has special meaning for me as a handful of special friends have "departed" unexpectedly recently. Tomorrow is not promised to anyone.

El Centro College

The International Small Business Development Center is now offering training and counseling in Spanish to the small businesses interested in importing and exporting. Patricia Moore, a native of Colombia, is leading this initiative and has received positive feedback from the community. The next program will be Exporting Fundamentals in Spanish on April 29th.

Juanita Marquez, professor, and Dr. Bette Plog, retired professor, recently attended the *League of Innovations 2009 Conference* in Reno, Nevada and made presentations entitled "Cisco Students Case Study Designs for New Campus" and "Colleges Launch Program from Convergence Mentoring." Susan Turner, Lisa Theriot and Dr. Betty Moran, executive deans, attended the conference also. Juanita Marquez and Jackie Porter, professors, conducted a "Techno-Geeks: The Basics of Computer Networking Workshop" engaging students in creating Ethernet cables at the *Barbara Mallory Caraway and Dr. Lew Blackburn 2nd Annual Career Futures Initiatives Job Expo and Career Fest* held at the Bill J. Priest Institute on April 4th. Jason Fletcher and Robert Ragsdale, Cisco Academy students, served as assistants. Dr. Bette Plog provided information regarding the summer "eXtreme Techno Camp 2009" to parents and students. Dr. Plog, Brian Caton, Leticia Andrews, and Juanita Marquez, professors, participated in the Oak Cliff Family YMCA Community Technology Night on April 3rd. The event was hosted by Microsoft (BAM/Blacks at Microsoft Chapter) and the Black Data Processing Association-Dallas Chapter. Participants were informed about Microsoft's latest technologies, vendor neutral and Microsoft specific certifications, including Microsoft Certified Applications Specialist, and as the college's authorized testing center. Information about summer camps, including eXtreme Techno Camp 2009 and Robo Camp was also shared with the community.

Fernando Rubio, a graduate of El Centro College, is a candidate for City Council District 6. He earned a Bachelors of Arts from Austin College and is pursuing his Masters degree in Teaching. Fernando served as president of the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) where he volunteered at various elementary schools while at the college. Jeanette Calderon is serving as campaign treasurer. She, too, is a graduate of the college and served as president of OLAS.

The April 8th *Dallas Morning News* carried a story in the business section on page one about how Family Gateway (FG), which provides housing and training for homeless families, partnered with El Centro College's culinary arts department to train people wishing to enter the restaurant business in basic food

preparation, sanitation and safety, and cooperative work experience for restaurants which focuses on keeping the kitchen humming. The training by Paul Philpot, faculty member, is done in the FG kitchen, where participants spend the first six weeks of training. Then they fan out for six-weeks externships at restaurants and hotels. Gus Katrigris, who organized the college's culinary arts program and is now retired, also participates and conducts some of the courses in FG new effort. Gretchen Riehl, associate dean/continuing education, is the administrator directing this continuing education effort. (See article attached.)

District Service Center

Each year Datatel has a national meeting of the Datatel Users Group (DUG). It is a conference planned and delivered by the institutions using the Datatel Colleague products. This year Angie Gomez, project manager II in District IT, attended the meeting. She said that the meeting was excellent and some of the new and innovative ideas that were showcased and shared at DUG were "Online Education Gets a Second Life" and "Supporting the New User Experience." Some of the positive outcomes of attending DUG were networking at the conference which resulted in new initiatives being started at the District Service Center, prior to the conference ending, and talking with other Datatel institutions about products such as SharePoint and iStrategies. Angie, along with another Datatel client, will be presenting a program called "The Raptor Model" at the *Southern Region Datatel Users' Group* to be held in June.

Betty Farrow, senior administrative assistant to the associate vice chancellor of business affairs, has been awarded Certified Educational Office Professional (CEOP) certification by the Texas Educational Support Staff Association (TESSA). To qualify for the CEOP certification, Betty completed a professional development program consisting of 42 clock-hours of staff training for effective management sessions and 18 clock-hours of job-related self-directed study. Current membership in *TESSA* is also required to receive the certification.

North Lake College

Our students and employees – North Lake College finished first in the Waste Minimization (WM) category of the national RecycleMania competition for the second consecutive year. The WM category focuses on overall waste reduction instead of just recycling. Schools compete to see who can generate the lowest amount of total waste per capita. More than 69.4 million pounds of recyclables and organics were recovered from more than 500 colleges and universities across the country. The college averaged 1,791 pounds of recycled materials per week and 5,529 pounds of trash. This averaged to 1.09 pounds of waste per person, per week. During the 2008 competition, the college averaged 1.25 pounds per person, per week – an improvement of 0.16 pounds per person, per week.

Our Employees – Derek Main, North Lake College geology adjunct, was recently featured in the *Dallas Morning News* for the work he is doing at the Arlington Archosaur Site. More than five years ago, dinosaur bones were discovered on a 1,700-acre plot of land in North Arlington. Due to previous ownership, archeological digs could not be done on the land. The new owner has granted access to project members from now until October. A headless dinosaur skeleton has been found, which Main believes to be a protohadros, although the identity cannot be confirmed without a skull. Main is a UTA earth science graduate student and instructor. He organizes as many student and volunteer digs as he can. (See article attached.)

Our Community – On April 18th, North Lake College hosted Dia de la Familia, a DCCCD annual celebration of education and family. Due to inclement weather, the celebration was held indoors, but that didn't distract the more than 1,000 participants from having a great time. Local music and dance groups performed, children had fun making crafts and jumping in the bounce house, and everyone was able to

sample food and receive important health and educational information from more than 75 community booths.

Our Community – The North Lake College South Campus held its first community event, the *Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Technology Showcase*, on April 16th. More than 300 people attended this day-long event to learn about the latest technologies and how they can be used to increase productivity in the workplace.

Cedar Valley College

Student Success – Cedar Valley College won the prestigious Beta Alpha Excellence Award (BAEA) at the *90th International Convention of Phi Theta Kappa*, the international honor society of two year colleges held last week. The BAEA is based on chapter programming in scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship. Only eleven (11) chapters were named BAEA and only 3 of those chapters were from Texas. Jennifer Wisdom, college student, won distinguished chapter president, and Sergeant Major Ruben Pereida, a student at the college, won the distinguished member award. The college's Alpha Zeta Omicron Chapter is a Five Star Chapter. The college's commercial music students provided entertainment during the event. Caleb McCampbell and Chris McCampbell, pianists, performed as the "McCampbell Brothers" for the exhibit hall entertainment, and Elliott Farmer and Kierion Johnson, vocalists, backed by Daytrion Cook, pianist, performed the featured song for an estimated 3,500 attendees. The convention was held at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine.

Cedar Valley College has been cited for excellence for its Uniform Recruitment and Retention Strategy Report. While the overall report was rated excellent, several programs were cited as being very good. Those programs include: General Recruitment & Collegiate G-Force Study Student Mentor, College Connection, Intensive Summer Program, the Cedar Valley Achievers College-Wide Retention Program and the Tutoring Center. Texas state law directs the Coordinating Board (CB) to "develop and annually update a uniform recruitment and retention strategy to identify, attract, enroll and retain students that reflect the population of this state." The statute further directs higher education institutions to "implement the uniform strategy and report annually to the CB the manner in which the institution has implemented the uniform strategy." External reviewers were selected to review institutional reports and provide feedback.

Community Development – On April 29th, the continuing education department at Cedar Valley College will present a webinar for new and experienced Ebby Halliday real estate agents beginning at 1:30 p.m. "Energy Efficient Living – Promoting Healthier, Cost Effective, Green Practices in Real Estate" will highlight green principles, teach the benefits of green living, and promote programs that are being implemented locally and internationally. The college is pleased to partner with Ebby Halliday, the renowned real estate practitioner. For further information about the webinar, please contact the Cedar Hill College Center at 972.860.7800.

Cedar Valley College is participating in several events to commemorate "Earth Day." This week, the college partnered with the UNT – Denton campus. The college presented materials about the Sustainable Institute at the college to more than 34,000 students at the UNT campus. The focus of the event was energy and environmental careers. In addition, the college was asked to participate in the *Planet UNT Earth Day Summit* on climate change and infrastructure. This upcoming week, the college has also been invited to join the Veterans Administration Hospital as they celebrate Earth Day.

DCCCD Campus High School

Students of the **Cedar Valley College Early College High School at Nolan Estes Plaza** will be on the college campus on May 1st to participate in “Preview Day (PD).” “PD” gives high school students a first-hand glimpse of college life while providing hands-on experiences. The students will learn about assessing databases and other information from their home computers, using eConnect for checking grades and setting class schedules, utilizing test taking techniques to improve performance, and importing multi-media into their class presentations.

As an important part of their commitment to Richland College’s mission of teaching, learning, and building sustainable local and world community, and their Capstone Service Learning requirement, a group of **Richland Collegiate High School (RCHS)** students joined with representatives from the Garland Habitat for Humanity, Lake Cities Association of Realtors, a First Baptist Church-Forney youth group, and local Garland volunteers to paint a house in the Garland community on April 4th. Barbara Oakes, RCHS adjunct instructor, has been working with RCHS students on weekends throughout the semester as they complete service learning projects dedicated to making a difference in area communities.

Juan Pineda and Elizabeth Martinez of the **Early College High School at Mountain View College** each received a Presidential High Honors award at Student Recognition Day on Tuesday, April 21st. The students qualified for the award by completing at least 20 cumulative hours of college credit with a grade point average of 3.6 or better.

Brookhaven College

Shelby Bishop, Brookhaven College and Southern Methodist University student, had a paper accepted for presentation at the *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting* in September. Shelby will be graduating from the college this semester and has received a full tuition scholarship to SMU. The American Political Science Association is a professional association of political science students and scholars in the United States. She originally wrote the paper, focused on the relationship between piracy and civil conflict in the Gulf of Aden, for a class but Dr. Chelsea Brown, SMU political science professor, recommended she send it on to the conference. Shelby refined the paper for submission, co-authoring the final piece with Dr. Brown. It is very impressive for a student, especially an undergraduate student to have a paper received at this level said Bob Little, Shelby’s political science professor at Brookhaven College.

Each year Brookhaven College gives thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving students. This year was no different, forty-eight (48) students received more than \$14,000 in scholarship funds at the April 19th event. This year was no different. The awards recognized outstanding students in each of the instructional divisions, and many endowed scholarships were awarded to those studying in specific fields. Interim President Richard McCrary, Ed.D., assisted by professors Dr. John Neal and Lisa Ehrich, presented many of the awards with approximately 100 employees, family and community leaders looking on in support of the students. The reception was generously sponsored by Town North Bank, carrying on its support of the event since 1994. The successful celebration was coordinated by the office of Marilyn K. Lynch, associate vice president for career and program resources.

Approximately 50 geology students served as volunteers at Paddlemania on April 18th, as part of Brookhaven College’s 30 Days of Service. Paddlemania benefits Senior Adult Services of Carrollton with a timed 5K fun run and the Dragonboat races on the Trinity River. Susan Maxey, geology professor, worked with a group of her students last year to do yard work, painting and fence repair for local senior citizens to help keep their properties within city code compliance. This year, her students’ volunteer efforts will continue to benefit local senior citizens while also acquainting them with the Trinity River.

A group of science, nursing, radiologic technology and emergency medicine staff and faculty members got a sneak peak at the new Science and Allied Health Building. Representatives from the architectural firm and construction company showed off the lab and classroom spaces on the second floor and the oval lecture hall, as well as some of the paint and tile work that has been completed on the first floor. This was their first time to see the offices and classrooms.

Richland College

Community and Economic Development – This month Richland College sponsored “KidsFest 2009,” hosted by Channel 33’s Amanda Salines and Walt Maciborski, and benefiting Garland’s Galaxy Counseling Center. The festival sent 10,000 Garland children on an egg hunt throughout Firewheel Town Center in Garland. The college staff volunteers applied Thunderduck tattoos and stickers to festival-goers at what was the largest KidsFest to date. Other sponsors included GISD, Kraft, NeighborsGo, and the University of Phoenix, while RadioDisney provided the day’s entertainment.

Student Success – Congratulations to the staff, writers and artists of *Parallax*, Richland College’s student literary magazine, and their sponsor Professor William Matter, who together recently earned eight awards at the *2009 Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Annual Convention*. Revised judging categories again placed *Parallax* in more direct competition with larger school publications, so it was even more commendable to receive two first place awards, three second place awards, one third place award, and two honorable mention awards.

Employee Success – Congratulations to Amy Bell, Richland College humanities professor, for being invited to present her paper, *Herrenvolk Histories: Ideology, Epistemology, and Social Justice*, at the *2009 Oxford Round Table Conference* this March in Oxford, England. Professor Bell was one of 50 scholars invited to attend this international conference on Social Justice--a topic central to her personal research and the college’s vision and mission.

Institutional Effectiveness – The 21st Annual Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (MBQNA) program’s *Quest for Excellence Conference* took place in Washington, D. C., April 19-22nd. The college’s representatives presented valuable information on Richland College’s continuous improvement approaches: Donna Walker, associate vice president (benchmarking); Bao Huynh, director of institutional effectiveness (performance metrics); Roy Bond, associate dean, (employee engagement); and Kay Eggleston, executive vice president, and Fonda Vera, dean of planning and research (responsible risk-taking). Dean Vera also facilitated Introduction to the Baldrige Criteria, a pre-conference workshop, while Dr. Eggleston hosted an Open-Mic Session on Getting Executives Engaged, as well as participating in an Education Sector Town Hall Meeting. These presentations and associated travel, as part of Richland College’s Baldrige outreach efforts, were supported through a grant awarded by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which oversees the MBQNA program.

Mountain View College

The Mountain View College Contract Training Services office held its *Annual Networking Breakfast* with chamber members and community businesses on April 14th. The theme for the event was: “Training is a Winner in Tough Economic Times.” Felix A. Zamora, president, welcomed visitors, and Bob Stimson, president of the Oak Cliff chamber of commerce, served as the keynote speaker. Stimson addressed a number of topics related to economic development. Sharon Davis, vice president of business services, gave a presentation entitled “New Business Resources at MVC.” Claralyn Jefferson, director of community programs and business services, and Sharon Glenn, associate dean of workforce development, also discussed issues pertaining to workforce development.

The Mountain View College Green Team (MVCGT) was recognized by Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert at a Dallas City Council meeting on April 8th, with a Mayor's Environmental Excellence Award. The MVCGT was one of three winners selected in the "Student/School" category. The awards recognize organizations promoting a safe, clean, and secure environment which contributes to the health and vibrancy of the city and region.

The Mountain View College dance department kicked off its "2009 Spring Dance Concert" on April 23rd, in the arena theater. Performances will continue through Saturday, April 25th. The concerts represent a culmination of several months of hard work and extensive rehearsals by the college faculty and students, and they are considered the highlight dance performances of the season. Also appearing on the dance concert program is the Ballet Ensemble of Texas, as well as Darrell Cleveland, guest performer, formerly of the Dallas Black Dance Theater. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

The first graduating class of the Brookhaven Associate Nursing Degree Program at Mountain View College will participate in commencement ceremonies on May 14th, along with the rest of the college student body. The program began in Spring 2008, and the 31 students who comprise the first graduating class have completed the equivalent of four full semesters of coursework and will soon be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Nancy Breed, program director, is pleased to report that approximately 50 percent of the graduating students have already procured employment upon the completion of all program requirements and successful passage of the NCLEX-RN.

Eastfield College

To commemorate Earth Day 2009, Eastfield College and Texas-based Green Mountain Energy (GME) Company broke ground for the college's new solar array. GME donated the 4.4 kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system that will be ground mounted and eventually used as a teaching tool. It will be the first PV solar system to power a DCCCD college. Dr. Jean Conway, interim president; Dr. Joy Black, vice president, student success and enrollment management; Jim Jones, vice president, business services; Eastfield College and DCCCD Green Team member; the college Science & Environmental Club members; Lydia Miller, market manager for GME; and Andrew Lowery, area manager for North Texas and Oklahoma for Standard Renewable Energy, were on hand for the April 22nd groundbreaking event. The celebration took place at the future site of the solar system on the south side of the campus adjacent to the swimming pool. The solar array will be incorporated into the learning curriculum of several classes and help educate students about the benefits of solar energy and the technical aspects of installing an array. A web site will also be linked to the array and display real-time energy output data. It is expected to produce over 8,500 kilowatt hours of electricity per year by converting sunlight into electricity. The solar array will consist of 24 solar panels (12 each), and will offset almost 11,500 pounds of carbon dioxide each year. GM funded the college's new solar array through its Big Texas Sun Club[®], a unique program in which GM's Texas customers can choose to support solar energy installations in Texas. The solar panels will be installed by Houston-based Standard Renewable Energy. The solar array is expected to be completed by early summer.

In other Earth Day activities, Dr. Conway signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. She has joined other college presidents and chancellors of colleges and universities who are concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale, adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects. In addressing the climate challenge, Eastfield College and other college campuses will integrate sustainability into curriculum to better serve students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society. Colleges and universities will be providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to address the critical, systemic challenges they will face in the future.

The “Week of the Young Child” was celebrated April 20-24th at Eastfield College’s Parent Child Study Center (PCSC). The PCSC is a nationally recognized member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and this week honors those who work with and serve young children. This year’s theme is “Bring Communities Together for Children-Children Bring Communities Together.” Karen Holder, PCSC director, and her staff coordinated the center’s daily service projects tied into the daily theme. Monday was Silly Sock Day and families donated a pair of socks. Tuesday was “Hat Day” and they brought combs, brushes, or other hair-related items/products. Wednesday was “Sports Day” and children wore their favorite sports apparel and donated a small, packaged toy. Thursday was “Pajama Day” and children brought a toothbrush or toothpaste. Friday was “Chow-with-Your-Child Day” where families could share breakfast, lunch or snack with their children, and families brought canned food or nonperishable items. The teaching theme for all ages was about community and being a part of a community by sharing with others. All items will be donated to the New Beginning Center, a domestic violence resource center that serves families in the Garland, Mesquite, East Dallas and surrounding areas. The mission of New Beginning Center is to foster an environment of safety, support and respect for families affected by domestic violence. They do so through crisis intervention, counseling, shelter, education, advocacy, and diverse community partnerships. The vision of New Beginning Center is to promote social change that will lead to the elimination of domestic violence. Other Eastfield College staff also joined in the celebration and made donations.

Eastfield College partnered with the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce and the City of Garland for their annual candidates forums in April. Mesquite’s forum was held at the campus on April 9th and 200 community members participated. For the third year, the college moderated Garland’s televised forum on April 16th at the Garland City Council Chambers. The forum was broadcast live on CGTV, the City’s Government Access Cable Channel. The program will be rebroadcast several times until the election on May 9th. The forum will also be on-line on the city’s web site. Don Baynham, associate vice president of outreach and advancement, served as this year’s moderator. Amy McDonald and Sharon Cook, the college communications staff, served as timekeeper and question moderator for the evening. Baynham, McDonald and Cook are all Leadership Garland Alumni.

LeCroy Center

The LeCroy Center (LCET) hosted 20 faculty members on April 18th, for an all-day faculty workshop. The purpose of the session was to determine how to assess the competencies of faculty members teaching online. The session was spearheaded by Jim Corvey (Mountain View College) and Audra Barrett (Richland College). President Dr. Paul McCarty (El Centro College) welcomed the group and spoke about the importance of distance learning within our district and the importance of their workshop results for future planning. Theresa Roffin (LCET) participated and assisted with logistics, along with Karen McClendon and Dottie Clark of the LCET.

Debbie Zuke of the LeCroy Center help desk will be participating in the Sugar Wonders Cake Club “Cake & Sugar Art Show” this weekend in McKinney. The event showcases the local talents of cake decorators and sugar artists in such categories as sculptured, novelty, wedding, floral, special occasion/holiday, gingerbread, and other confections. On display will be many imaginative and amazing creations from the hands of children up to the master division. Debbie will be featuring a confectioner’s masterpiece inspired by the Dallas Museum of Art’s King Tut Exhibit. Debbie won the “*Dallas Morning News* Holiday Cookie Contest” in December 2008.

Henry Hartman (STARLINK) will be presenting at the *Texas Administrators of Continuing Education Conference* in Austin, April 22-24th. One program topic features, “Distance Learning: A Primer in conjunction with Henry Hartman and STARLINK” a discussion on the importance of gaining

professional development at community colleges. STARLINK is the state's oldest network for providing a variety of online faculty and college administrative professional development training.

The LeCroy Center honored all support staff for "Special Assistant's Day" with a building-wide Bar-B-Que luncheon and cookout. The Wednesday afternoon affair was to wish everyone, who served in the special role of assisting and supporting various departments and activities, "a very happy day of celebration." Paul Hernandez, Dallas TeleCollege, along with other staff spear-headed the event by serving as grill-meister-chef for the day.

Sheterric Walker, Dallas TeleCollege advisor, took her University of North Texas master's study course project one-step further than expected when she took on a task that has shown to be invaluable for DCCCD Disability Services departments. Sheterric worked with David Wood, LCET/IT Access coordinator, to conduct needs assessments and surveys about technology available to students with disabilities. The research she provided on software, hardware and technology assessments in the DCCCD will be used to determine future needs for students. Her findings will be shared later with the Disability Services Council.

